


ADMINISTRATIVE



Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

FBIS-0194/85

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1 May 1985

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Deputy Director for
Science and Technology
(Attn: )
Room 6E45, Headquarters

FYI, requests to FBIS
stemming from Defense Secretary
Weinberger.

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D/FBIS

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LOGNOTE - Acting Chief, Wire Services Staff, DRD — 30 April 1985

(Hughes) WIRE ASSISTANCE TO OFFICE OF SECDEF — Ops Center, Pentagon, and State Department watch officers called the Wire early Friday evening, 26 April, all on behalf of Defense Secretary Weinberger, who was interested in the text of a PRAVDA or TASS article reportedly conveying congratulations to the U.S. Congress for rejecting the administration's plan for aid to Nicaraguan rebels. A check of MIDAS Wire Log and discard files revealed no such Soviet comment. In response to a Wire query, London Bureau confirmed that Soviet media had not offered congratulations on the congressional vote since debate on this issue concluded on 24 April. I later spoke to the watch officers involved to try to get some details on the source of the rumor that TASS or PRAVDA had carried this report but they were unable to offer any further information other than citing the call from the SecDef's office that such an article had been published.

[redacted] of the Ops Center called later Friday evening, again on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, seeking PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA commentaries on the congressional debate over Nicaragua.

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[redacted] said that the Secretary's office needed the articles first thing Saturday morning. A check of PMU's pressfax selection lists for 24 and 25 April revealed that two brief reports on the issue were being processed. At the Wire's request, LD Bureau immediately filed a TASS account of the PRAVDA report, followed by PMU's texts of the newspaper articles, all of which were run on the Wire before SecDef's 0800 deadline on Saturday.

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(cc: D/FBIS, C/Ops, C/AG, C/LRB, C/LD Bureau, C/PMU)